



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 25 Years Imprisonment for 2005 Fatal Shooting

WASHINGTON - Acting U.S. Attorney Channing Phillips announced that a 24-year-old Northeast District of Columbia man, Delonte C. Fortune, was sentenced today by D.C. Superior Court Judge Michael L. Rankin to 25 years in jail, on charges related to the August 7, 2005, shooting death of Lamont Watkins in an alley in the 3900 block of 7th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. On March 3, 2009, a D.C. Superior Court jury returned guilty verdicts against Delonte Fortune for Second Degree Murder, Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence, and Carrying a Pistol Without a License.

According to evidence presented at trial, the murder stemmed from a dispute over money. Two hours before the murder, Watkins and Fortune engaged in a fist fight approximately two blocks away from the murder site. Although Watkins was approximately one hundred pounds lighter and seven inches smaller than Fortune, Fortune was unable to beat Watkins. At the conclusion of the fight, several people from the neighborhood made fun of Fortune for failing to beat the much smaller Watkins, and Fortune walked away from the fight angry.

Approximately two hours later, Fortune lured Watkins into an alley in the 3900 block of 7th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., and shot him at point blank range five times, striking him in the neck, chest, stomach, thigh and hand. Watkins was pronounced dead on the scene.

Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended several Metropolitan Police Department officers for their work on the case, including lead Detective Michael Fulton, Detective Brett Smith, Detective Josh Branson, Officer Gary Walker and Mobile Crime Officer Curtis Lancaster. Mr. Phillips also commended Legal Assistant Marian Russell, Intelligence Research Specialist Shannon Alexis and the litigation support staff for their outstanding work on the case. Finally, Mr. Phillips praised former Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexandra Foster, who indicted the case, and Assistant United States Attorneys Seth Waxman and Kevin Flynn, who tried the case.

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